THE VETERINARY RECORD

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VETERINARY EMPLOYMENT BY THE STATE.

On another page we note the appointment of a Departmental Committee of the Board of Agriculture, which may have most important effects upon our profession, It seems to portend a systematic attempt by the State to utilise veterinary knowledge and develop veterinary education to an extent not yet seen in England. Its terms of reference are two-fold, and may be considered separately. One is "to enquire into the requirements of the public services with regard to the employment of officers possessing veterinary qualifications," and the other "to consider whether any further measures can with advantage be adopted for the selection and training of students with a view to such employment."

The directions are rather vague, especially the second. The first one may fairly be taken to include an enquiry into two main points—what are the public duties which may be best relegated to veterinary surgeons, and what professional qualifications should the men chosen to perform those duties possess? We have no doubt at all that the Committee will recommend a great extension upon the present public employment of veterinary surgeons, and at the same time advocate that all so employed, being veterinary specialists, should have received special training in certain subjects. This brings us to the second direction to the Committee—the reference to the "selection and training of students"—and here it is not easy to say what the Committee are likely to advise. One very probable if not absolutely certain recommendation is the institution of an advanced post-graduate diploma. Another possible one is the foundation of scholarships in veterinary sanitary science. But, whatever the exact recommendations of the Committee may be, there is no doubt that they will be based upon the idea of ensuring that the veterinary sanitarians of the future shall be men who, besides their ordinary professional training, have devoted additional and considerable study to the subjects special to their peculiar work.

It seems fairly certain that this Committee has been appointed as a result of some of the recommendations in the recently issued report of the Departmental Committee on Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

It will be remembered that those recommendations, to which we have called attention more than once, were of a very sweeping character. They included proposals for a post-graduate degree, and for the establishment of a considerable body of specially trained and well remunerated veterinary inspectors, partially paid and largely controlled by the Board of Agriculture. Outlined rather than detailed, they were merely part of a report which dealt with many other matters; and the present Committee undoubtedly has been formed to enquire how far these particular recommendations may be carried into effect. In other words, the Government is seriously taking up the problem of how best to evolve a body of veterinary specialists for the service of the State; and, though the development of such a body must be a slow process, the result cannot fail to beneficial to the profession and to the nation alike.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOUDAN GOVERNMENT FOR 1911.

The Annual Report for 1911, just issued, is of particular interest to the profession, inasmuch as one of its members in the person of the Director Soudan Veterinary Department (Major Carr, A.V.C., or to give him his local rank and title, El Kaimakam Carr Bey) has laid himself out to assist in the development of the country at a critical period in its growth. Long years of anarchy and war had reduced the vast area of Africa to a condition of absolute insolvency. Whole tribes had disappeared under the beneficent rule of the Mahdi and his successors, and the little cultivable land had been neglected.

The most urgent question in the regeneration of the Soudan was to revive trade and stimulate industries. It is gratifying to record that in this connection the veterinary profession, through the foresight and business acumen of Major Carr, has been able to come to the aid of the Soudan Government by suggesting a source of revenue never seriously exploited, *i.e.*, the exportation of cattle and sheep into Egypt. Major Carr anticipated all the difficulties likely to arise in sending cattle and sheep into areas under quarantine laws, and provided the Government with the needful scheme to meet the case. It is gratifying to find from the above report, that the Government of the Soudan officially recognise that this new industry has been effected through the instrumentality of the Director of the Soudan Veterinary Department.

The report further adds that the native was at first unwilling to put money into what he regarded as a risky business, but that his present confidence is *due to the efficiency of the control exercised by the Veterinary Department.* It is seldom that any Government is prepared to acknowledge the services rendered by its servants in such honourable terms, and we as a profession have good reason to feel proud of the manner in which one of our members has utilised his professional skill and business capacity, in building up a profitable trade for the province of the Soudan.

As some indication of what has been effected, it is only necessary to say that the annual value of exported animals the year before the introduction of Major Carr's scheme was £48,194. In his first year the value rose to £131,977, and in the second year (1911) it had reached £254,958, truly a wonderful record, on which we heartily congratulate Major Carr and the Government which he serves.

FIBROLYSIN.

By Henry Taylor, F.R.C.V.S., Hayward's Heath.

The subject was an aged horse belonging to a hotel proprietor, and the history of the case was that he had been utilised one night along with another horse to draw the village fire engine, and being rather high-spirited and nervous had sprained his hock whilst pulling up a hill.

The hock became much swollen and *very hard* over the seat of bog spavin and thoro'pin. Some kind of iodine liniment was used, and although the lameness diminished the joint was about double the normal size; that was the condition when I examined it on Jan. 19, and rather against my judgment the owner persuaded me there and then to apply a blister of Biniode of mercury. This did not reduce the enlargement at all, and on March 8th the joint was still about twice its normal size. The horse was not exactly lame, but he was unable to flex the hock even to kick, such was the amount of tissue.

Some Fibrolysin was procured from E. Merck, London, as the case seemed an ideal one upon which to test its efficacy. The injections were made on the following dates, March 13th, 16th, 20th, 27th, and April 3, and in addition the hock was massaged with weak iodine ointment (about gr. v. to ʒi. of lard). The gluteal muscles was the site chosen for the injections, alternate sides being used. A *slight* swelling, which disappeared in two or three days, followed the first one, perhaps because the needle was not inserted quite deep enough, but there was not the slightest swelling or constitutional disturbance consequent on any of the others.

The result exceeded my expectations: the swelling diminished, movement of the joint became freer, and the two hocks began to look more like a pair, Finally there was very little difference between the two, and the disparity was not strikingly noticeable. I am unable to give exact measurements of the reduction; I tried, as also did the groom when alone with the horse, to measure the hock with a tape, but the animal could hardly have resisted more if he had thought we were trying to cut his throat. He was such a fidgetty customer that the giving of the injections was no easy task.

The reduction in size of the affected hock was in this case quite satisfactory, and it is a fair inference to draw that it was due to the Fibrolysin, as a fair time had been given for the natural absorption.

CASTRATION.

By J. H. Parker, M.R.C.V.S., Faringdon.

I have had twenty years experience, and have done on an average about two hundred animals a year, varying from suckers to a sixteen-year-old Shire stallion, When I first started I used to do them standing, and was so successful that I thought anyone employing any other method must either be an ignoramus or a fool: but I have changed my opinion since.

At first we used the wooden clamp. I remember doing a three-year-old Racer at Hednesford. He was no trouble to do. I had to stay all night so as to take off the clamp next morning, and my bedroom was just opposite the horse's box. The poor brute kept on pawing all night so that I could not sleep, and when we went to him next morning he had worn right through the near fore shoe and hoof, right into the sensitive laminæ.

No. 3.

After that I went to Lewes to do a four-year-old Racer; when I got one testicle out I had to cast him to get the other. Another case was a big, fine two-year-old Shire colt. Three days after castration we found him dead in a ditch, and a post-mortem showed the spermatic cords very much swollen and black, the inflammation had extended internally and set up peritonitis. I felt certain that the clamps killed him.

I found that animals operated thus went very stiff afterwards and looked very sorry for a few days. I think this one of the most painful methods of operating.

After this I tried one of the patent emasculators, but owing to the subsequent bleeding had to give it up.

For the last 15 years I have used the actual cautery and the écraseur with much more satisfactory results to my clients and to myself. For yearlings I like the écraseur, but for anything older I like the actual cautery.

Casting, we use two ropes each sixteen feet long with a loop at one end. We put the loop round the near fore pastern, then pass the rope between the hind legs, then outside and twist it round the rope again and throw it to the men by the off shoulder. If the rope is greased it slips more easily, and to save getting kicked I use a walking stick to put the rope between the hind legs. The men at the rope and head and tail pull in opposite directions, and the colt falls on his near side. Photo No. 1 shows this. We then take the second rope and put the loop round the off hind pastern, then over the withers and under the neck, and the leg drawn up as near the point of the shoulder as possible, the tighter the better (photo No. 2). The rope is then passed over the rope above the pastern, and then above the hock, passing it round twice, then the loose end forms two loops round the double rope, one near the fetlock the other near the hock; the tighter the ropes the less the animal will struggle. Photo No. 3 shows the correct position of the loops.

On June 8th last we castrated 15 and docked 9 in two hours and a quarter. Another day we castrated 8 in 55 minutes. To dock horses I much prefer to put them down, using the method as shown in photo No. 1. I have never had an accident or known a colt injure himself in any way.

No. 1.

No. 2.

ABSTRACTS FROM FOREIGN JOURNALS.

Croupous Enteritis in the Ox, caused by the Bacillus Enteridis of Gaertner.

Miessner and Kohlstock report (*Zentralbl. f. Bakt. Parasitenk. u. Infectionskr.*) their observations of an outbreak of this nature. The organs and intestinal contents of a cow which had suffered from enteritis were sent to them, and from these

they cultivated bacteria which, upon further and closer tests, proved to be the *B. Enteridis* of Gärtner. The flesh of the cow was also bacteriologically tested, and the same bacteria were found in it. The authors therefore held themselves justified in concluding that the enteritis which had affected the cow during life has been caused by Gärtner's bacillus.

The cow had been one of a herd of 85 cows and 13 heifers. A few days after this first cow's death, three heifers fell ill in quick succession. They showed diarrhœa (the fæcal discharges being croupous and hæmorrhagic) and died in from 24 to 36 hours after the first visible appearances of illness. A bacteriological examination of these heifers could not be made. The affected heifers, however, had been separated from the rest, and placed in a shed in which some other cattle were standing; and one of these latter—a cow, which was in the shed on account of lameness—died. Bacteriological examination was possible in the case of the cow, and resulted in the demonstration of Gärtner's bacilli. The authors therefore attribute the whole outbreak to Gärtner's bacillus.

Soon afterwards, the source of infection was, in the authors' opinion, explained. A calf which had previously suffered from diarrhœa—diarrhœa was prevalent among the calves of the farm—had been grazed upon the pasture, and, while apparently in a quite healthy condition, was slaughtered soon after the occurrence of the previously described cases. Gärtner's bacilli were found in numbers in the calf's organs; and the authors therefore regard the animal as a "bacillus carrier" which had infected the meadow. It is not clear why the bacilli had attained a high virulence for grown cattle. The authors gave doses of a culture of the bacillus to two cattle by the mouth. Both animals showed high fever, which lasted for some days; but diarrhœa or other symptoms of illness did not appear.

Upon two other subsequent occasions, the authors have cultivated Gärtner's bacillus from the organs of calves which had died soon after birth, showing diarrhœic symptoms. As the bacilli could be demonstrated microscopically in all the organs, the authors regard them as being unquestionably the cause of the diarrhœa.—(*Berliner Tierärztliche Wochenschrift*).

Salvarsan in the Treatment of Glanders.

Blagodetelew records (*Weter Wratsch.*) the attempts which he made, in collaboration with Gorianski, to cure three glandored horses with Salvarsan. The glanderous nature of the disease was proved by the mallein test, by bacteriological investigation, and by inoculation experiments upon cats.

The dose of salvarsan used was 2·4 grammes, given in a single injection subcutaneously or intravenously. After the injection, fever, restlessness, diarrhœa, and painful swellings of different sizes at the sites of injection, were observed. All these symptoms soon disappeared, except the swellings, which remained longer than the other sequelæ.

Five to seven days after the injection, all three horses showed a distinct general improvement. The nasal discharge lessened, and became slimy; and the ulcers which two of the horses showed in the nostrils assumed a benign appearance. Further observations showed a considerable improvement in the general condition, lessening of the swellings of the lymphatic glands, complete healing of the glanderous ulcers, suspension of the nasal discharge and other favourable symptoms.

Further inoculations of cats and cultural experiments upon potatoes and agar nevertheless still gave positive results. One of the horses was given a further injection of three grammes of salvarsan.

After 46, 47, and 54 days, however, when the horses appeared outwardly healthy and well nourished, and the ulcers that two of them had shown were healed, the nasal discharge increased in quantity and assumed a purulent character. The horses were killed; and post-mortem examination revealed glanderous centres in the lungs.

The author concludes that salvarsan, by partially destroying the bacilli and lessening their virulence, causes an apparent recovery only.—(*Berliner Tier. Woch.*)

A New Distinctive Character of the Human and Bovine Tubercle Bacilli.

P. Chaussé states (*Academie des Sciences*), as a result of experiments upon the dog and cat, that the domestic carnivora are much more sensitive to bovine tubercle bacilli than to those of human origin. Considering the analogies which exist between canine and feline tuberculosis and tuberculosis in man, we have here an important presumption in favour of the receptivity of man himself to the bacillus of bovine origin.—(*La Semaine Vét.*)

Calcium Chloride in the Treatment of Canine Piroplasmosis.

L. Naudin records (*Revue de Leclainche*) a case of a dog in which the clinical diagnosis of piroplasmosis was made from the symptoms (pallor of the mucous membranes, splenic sensitiveness, and hæmoglobinuria) and confirmed by microscopical examination of the blood. The author successfully treated the case with calcium chloride, which he used in the dose of 3 grammes (about 46 grains) per day, until the albuminuria had completely disappeared. He is certain that calcium chloride increases the resistance of the blood corpuscles and plays a part—perhaps catalytic and still undetermined—in the formation of anti-bodies.—(*La Semaine Vét.*) W. R. C.

Scholarships for Scientific Research.

The Board of Agriculture and Fisheries have awarded Research Scholarships in Agricultural Science to the following students:

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Mr. F. C. Minett, M.R.C.V.S. (London), (Animal Pathology).

R. S. I. Congress, 1913.

The Council of the Royal Sanitary Institute have accepted an invitation from the City Council of Exeter to hold the next Congress and Exhibition of the Institute in Exeter, from July 7th to 12th, 1913.

Mendelism and the Inheritance of Distinct Characters.

This and the following subjects were dealt with at a Conference of Agricultural Teachers, organised by the Cambridge University Department of Agriculture and supported by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, which met at Cambridge on the 18th July and subsequent days.

Dr. Salaman lectured on the subject of his researches on potato breeding. He has succeeded in establishing that the inheritance of many characters in the potato is governed by the Mendelian law. Practically, all domestic varieties are hybrid in the Mendelian sense—that is, if the flowers are selfed and plants are raised from the true seed (as distinct from the tuber), a large number of types differing from the parent are produced. Dr. Salaman showed that in regard to shape of tuber (long or round), habit of growth (erect or procumbent), colour of tuber (red, purple, or white), the inheritance follows the Mendelian law of segregation. Interesting results have been obtained from a study of the wild species *Solanum etuberosum*, which, though grown in this country for many years previously, set seed for the first time in 1906. The interest of this variety lies in the fact that it is believed to be immune to *Phytophthora* disease, and there is consequently a possibility that by working on Mendelian lines it may be practicable to produce a variety of the domestic potato immune to this disease.

Animal Nutrition.

Dr. Hopkins lectured on some new developments in the physiology of animal nutrition. He showed that there is grave reason to doubt accepted theories (associated with the work of Rubner and Kellner) based on the assumption that the nutritive value of different foodstuffs can be expressed in terms of their energy value. In his view, what may be termed the specificity of composition of a diet is of more importance than its aggregate energy value as measured by the "starch equivalent." His experiments with zein (the alcohol-extracted protein of maize) showed that this substance by itself is insufficient to maintain life, but that if the amino-acid tryptophane—a constituent of most proteins, but absent in zein—be added to the diet, normal conditions of maintenance and growth are restored. At the same time, the lecturer was of opinion that too great stress should not be laid on the specificity of a diet from the point of view of the amino-acids present, and instanced the fact that the animal has the power in some cases of synthetising the amino-acids that its economy requires—a power, however, that seems to be limited to the "chain" compounds, and does not extend to the building up of the "ring" class of organic substances. Dr. Hopkins went on to give an account of a most interesting fact that he discovered as long ago as 1907, namely, that there is present in milk (in quantities of less than 0·1 per cent.), and probably in all organic tissues, some substance which is essential to growth, a substance which is not a protein, which may be of the nature of a catalyst or enzyme, but which he has not yet succeeded in isolating. Facts of this nature, therefore, point to the necessity of further investigations with a view to reconstruct the theory of animal nutrition on a new basis.

Grouse Disease.

Dr. A. E. Shipley lectured on Grouse Disease. Grouse disease was formerly attributed to the action of a specific organism, the *Bacillus coli*, which is now known to be a normal occupant of animal intestines. The Committee on grouse disease ascertained that the grouse suffers from a very large number of both external and internal animal parasites, and that probably in most cases one or more of these first seriously weakens the bird or damages the tissues, enabling the *Bacillus coli* to penetrate into the tissues and cause inflammation of the intestines, etc. Of the external parasites, mites, lice, fleas and ticks are important, and it is possible that some, particularly perhaps the flea, in addition to the direct effect, act as intermediate hosts of the tapeworms. Of the internal parasites, two tapeworms are particularly common. In addition, *Coccidiosis* attacks young birds, and strongyles take possession of the cæcum, which in the grouse is of especial importance as being the only absorptive organ.

The life history of the different parasites was described and illustrated, and the importance of proper and frequent burning of grouse moors was emphasised.

House Flies.

Dr. Graham Smith lectured on "House Flies, their Habits and Relations to Disease."

The House Fly to a certain extent may act as a carrier of disease if it first walks over infected material and then over food, but this perhaps is the least important of the methods, as bacteria do not remain long on the legs or external parts of the insect. Much more important is the method made possible by the peculiarity of its digestion. The fly has, in addition to intestines, a crop which acts as a storehouse of food. In feeding, the crop is filled before any food passes into the intestine, but after it is filled any further supply of food is passed direct to the gut, so that material may remain in the crop for very considerable periods, and infection may be transmitted both by the vomit and by the fæces. In the case of flies fed experimentally on cultures of various pathogenic bacteria, infective power was found to be retained for periods ranging up to fourteen or sixteen days, and in the case of spore-forming organisms for considerably longer periods.

Journal of the Board of Agriculture.

How Intestinal Obstruction Causes Death.

Several hypotheses have been propounded to explain the rapid onset of fatal symptoms in cases of intestinal obstruction, but most of them have been founded upon doubtful inferences from complicated clinical phenomena rather than upon exact knowledge. In the *Johns Hopkins Hospital Bulletin*, Stone, Bernheim, and Whipple narrate the result of some experimental work upon dogs, which leads them to the following conclusions. High "loop" obstruction is rapidly fatal to dogs; low loops (ileum) of similar nature are much less rapidly fatal. Surgical drainage of the loop will, however, save the animal's life: and total excision of the loop does not necessarily impair the animal's health.

The secretion obtained from these loops is highly toxic, and causes profound splanchnic paralysis. When introduced into normal animals it produces many changes similar to those found in animals with closed duodenal loops—low blood pressure and temperature, excretion of large quantities of fluid into the intestinal canal, and fatal shock. The toxic material is not injured by heating to 60 C., by centrifuging, or by filtering; nor is it impaired by prolonged autolysis, by pancreatic digestion, or by bacterial fermentation. No such substance can be obtained from the normal intestinal mucose. The practical bearing of this research would seem to be direct confirmation of the value of puncturing and emptying any loop of distended intestine when relieving an acute obstruction, a process the utility of which most surgeons are already agreed upon.—*The Hospital.*

The Remount difficulty in U.S.A.

Many of our readers will remember that the Army Veterinary Department in the States has for years been struggling for an independent existence—for the opportunity to demonstrate its *raison d'être*, and with as slow progress as our own Army Veterinary Department in past years. Now that the establishment of an Army Remount Department is in hand there is a repetition of the same wearisome contest with indifference and ignorance—possibly with "interests," to be gone through.

The following excerpts are from an article in the August number of *The American Veterinary Review* by Olaf Schwarzkopf, an Army veterinarian, who has long and consistently written in the cause of his *confrères* in the States. They outline some of the causes leading up to the present conditions, and incidentally show how this important question—less important there, perhaps, than in European States—is still left in the hands of men who may ride and own horses, but who persist in neglecting to make use of the knowledge and experience of the trained veterinarians.

"In the nineties horse-breeding—helter-skelter, uncontrolled, unguided or misguided horse-breeding—all were irrational, produced an oversupply of horses of inferior quality, which resulted in the dropping of prices so low that they become practically worthless. Veterinarians then practising well remember that a charge of two dollars for a visit to a sick horse was considered exorbitant, the owner estimating the value of his 250 dollars horse at about 25 dollars, and he preferred to let him die rather than pay such a fee. People in many sections of the country did not know what to do with all the horses, and thousands were butchered, ostensibly for export, while other thousands were simply shot in the prairies to preserve the grass for cattle and sheep, or the carcases were fed to hogs.

A reaction set in, the pendulum swung towards the other extreme: there followed the abandonment of breeding of the American lightweight, quick-moving enduring horse, particularly of those strains suitable for riding purposes. About the same time the Spanish-American war, the Philipine war and the South African war nearly took the rest of this kind of horses out of the country, never to return, and numbers of valuable breeding mares and stallions, entirely suitable to produce fair cavalry horses, were eagerly bought up by foreign buyers at the low figures quoted. All this short-sighted, almost hysterical squandering of horses was looked upon by many breeders as a welcome "opening of a world-market" for our horses."

"About four years ago the war department suddenly discovered that cavalry horses could no longer be procured by the contract system of purchase, then in vogue. The quartermaster general of the army became alarmed and came to the conclusion that the establishment of an Army Remount Department would best serve as a solution of the problem confronting him. He studied studied the foreign arrangements in this line and worked out a plan that delighted the hearts of the army veterinarians, providing, as it did, for one chief veterinarian at the general remount office, and numerous other veterinary inspectors and assistants to serve at the remount stations. But the war department, and particularly Congress, considered this plan too elaborate, cut it hither and thither, and all that came out of it was the establishment of three remount depots in 1908, each in charge of a cavalry officer, assisted by a contract veterinarian. The latter was not required to give proof of his special qualification for such a place, for which leniency he was left in a position without official standing or adequate emoluments.

It is now generally concluded by army officers and veterinarians that even this rudimentary system has proved its great superiority over the previous contract system of purchase of army horses, mainly because the middleman in the deal was eliminated, the purchase being made directly from the breeder. While unserviceable horses still come into the ranks, on the whole the remounts secured in this way are of a better class, better in comparison to remounts formerly offered and accepted, but still far below the standard set by those armies and countries where a typical cavalry horse is being bred for the purpose."

"One cannot study the history of such government studs as those of Trakehnen in Germany, of Mezohegues in Austria-Hungary, even of the less military and more civil administration of the British breeding studs in India, without being impressed with the waste of time expended in unfruitful clashes of opinion on theories of breeding, of wanton experiments in mixing breeds, and, not the least, in the stubborn attempts of horse fanciers possessed of fantastic ideas of breeding, to keep themselves in lucrative offices. In all of these countries the veterinarian has finally won out, not because he could muster official or social influence, but on merit only.

So far, we in the army at least, have been overlooked in the co-operation in this new breeding scheme of the government, and others, by virtue of their rank, have been chosen as counsellors. This could be expected to be the condition at the start, because it is exactly what happened abroad, only longer ago.

It is pleasant to chronicle that already notice has been taken of the valuable assistance the veterinarian can render in breeding problems, at present only from mere private sources. Aside from Dr. Melvin's excellent official publications on breeding of army horses, hunters, etc., during the past few years, the appearance of such articles as that of Dr. Nockald, First Cavalry, "Notes on the Progenitors of Certain Strains of the Modern American Horse," published in the *Cavalry Journal*, those of Dr. Griffin, Third Artillery, and Dr. D. Arthur Hughes on the remount question, and several briefer notes made by other army veterinarians, have been favourably commented upon by interested army officers. That an official representation of veterinarians is bound to be acknowledged can be judged by a recent remark of an army officer in the *Cavalry Journal* who, taking occasion to comment on our national government for not sooner enacting a breeding strain in this country, said with emphasis: "It remained for an obscure veterinarian in Wisconsin to quietly force through the legislature of his state the first stallion law in America." While none of us will admit that our esteemed colleague, Dr. Alexander, occupies an obscure position, this adjective may be pardoned when we adjust our eyes to the spectacles through which this writer looked at the question

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Veterinary Surgeons and the Petrol Tax: Their Title to a Rebate.

A Correspondent of *The Horse and Hound* writes:—

In the Finance Act of 1910 there is a provision that where doctors employ motor cars in the pursuit of their profession they are to get a remission of half the duty on the motor spirit so consumed. Cumbrous as is the process of getting back this rebate, it is an important item in the travelling expenses, especially of a man whose practice covers a wide area. It is difficult to understand why this small privilege should not be extended to a class of doctors who have to work even harder for their living than those who minister to those manifold ailments and ills to which all human flesh is heir. As a rule, veterinary surgeons have to traverse wider areas of country than doctors, and their practice frequently necessitates their travelling along rough by-roads, lanes, and farm tracks, in order to meet the requirements of their clients—farmers, small holders, and

others engaged in rural industries in which horses and livestock of various kinds are important factors. Veterinary surgeons find it increasingly necessary in the course of their profession that they should be equipped with some sort of motor vehicle, be it tricar, a two-seater, or even a motor-bicycle, in which they can conveniently run about here, there, and everywhere without undue expenditure of time.

It cannot be gainsaid that the motor car, by lessening the need for the use of horses, has robbed the veterinary surgeon of a valuable part of his practice, not only in the shape of fees for doctoring, but for examinations for soundness and the giving of certificates thereof. In these circumstances, it is rather like seething a kid in its mother's milk to say that if he turns his mechanical foe to his own use and service he shall be liable for the full amount of the petrol tax. Take the case of a veterinary surgeon whose business has a radius of say fifteen miles, and occasionally takes him to points still further afield. Assuming that he works on 300 days in the year—and as everyone knows, a veterinary surgeon is equally liable with a doctor to be called out on Sundays—he will cover in his little car 22,000 miles in the course of a year, or about seventy-three miles a day. If he consumes three gallons of petrol each day—a very moderate allowance—the cost of petrol alone would work out at £11 5s. a year. It is safe to say that there is a large number of veterinary surgeons with good connections in the agricultural districts who would be very well pleased if they could show an average income of £225; and a tax of £11 5s. on an income of £225 is equivalent to an income tax of a shilling in the pound, *i.e.*, double the super tax. There are many doctors throughout the country whose professional incomes far exceed the super-tax level, and while they are entitled to a remission of half the duty on the petrol that they use in their big travelling cars, motor landaulettes, or broughams, this small concession is denied to the struggling veterinary surgeons scattered throughout the land, whose prompt attendance often saves farmers from heavy loss by foot-and mouth disease, pleuro-pneumonia, and other diseases of animals.

Again, what sort of encouragement is given to farmers to breed horses for the Army, in connection with which the services of the most skilful and highly trained veterinary surgeons are essential, when this heavy petrol duty, equivalent to an income tax of a shilling in the pound, which was originally put forward by the Chancellor of the Exchequer as a tax on luxury, is imposed on those who are the doctors of our animals, which frequently are our second selves! Another consideration of much importance is that a very large number of animal diseases, such as anthrax, glanders, and rabies, and frequently even tuberculosis, are fatal to human beings. In many cases, especially of anthrax, the attendance of a veterinary surgeon at the earliest possible moment may be the means of preventing this fell disease not only from spreading among domestic animals but from being communicated to human beings.

It is no answer to this well-founded claim for the Government, while professing sympathy with a very estimable and hard-working class of men, to say that they cannot grant the demand of what one of the spokesmen of the Treasury in Parliament has sneeringly described as "a comparatively small class of traders" on the ground that it would at once lead to similar demands from other classes, such as commercial travellers, and even farmers themselves, who may use motor cars. Another ingenuous argument used a few days ago on behalf of the Government is that it is inexpedient to lessen the rate of duty on motor spirit in the case of veterinary surgeons lest it should increase the temptation for them to give up horses and keep motor cars.

On the lower plane of argument, if a veterinary surgeon is to be regarded as a trader, it may be pointed out that in the case of the great Co-operative Stores and other traders, whether big or little, who deliver their goods and wares by means of motor vans, half the petrol duty is remitted. If, on the other hand, the veterinary surgeon is rightly treated as a professional man, who has undergone examinations far stiffer than those passed by many a general practitioner, he is entitled to equality of treatment.

Cruelty Charge at Dunboyne.

At the Dunboyne Petty Sessions on Wednesday, Aug. 28th, before Messrs. R. F. Olphert, R.M. (presiding); P. Leonard, and J. Burton, Nicholas Bourke, Inspector of Dublin Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Incorporated), and said Society, summoned Capt. Geoffrey Baynes, of Rooske House, Dunboyne, for having cruelly illtreated and tortured a pony, by cutting off portion of the tail, and applying a red hot iron to the wounded portion. Mr. R. M. Potterton, solicitor, appeared for the complainant. Mr. Edwin Edwards (Messrs. Edwards and Good) appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Potterton said the attention of the society had been primarily drawn to the offence by the facts disclosed in the public Press, when a man named Lilliker met his death while the operation of "docking" was being performed on the 24th July. It appeared that on that date Capt. Baynes had arranged for "docking" the horse by erecting a paling—a bar fastened to a stick driven into the ground. Against this stick lay a loose door, and so far as he understood the evidence, the horse was pegged against the doorway, one man held up its foreleg, another man held it by what was called a "twitch," and a third man was assisting Capt. Baynes at the operation. In the course of the proceedings the pony reared up, and when the red hot iron was applied, it kicked over the doorway, and struck Lilliker in the eye. He proposed to produce evidence to show that this was not an operation which should be allowed to pass without notice. This operation of applying to the animal a red hot iron was nothing short of sheer barbarism.

Evidence having been given, Mr. Edwards said: There is no controversy over the facts. Capt. Baynes admitted that.

Prof. A. E. Mettam, Principal of the Royal Veterinary College, said the process adopted of searing with a red-hot iron was a cruel method. Hæmorrhage could be stopped by other means which are not so barbarous. The application of a red-hot iron was certainly not modern surgery, and it caused unnecessary suffering.

Cross-examined by Mr. Edwards: Is it not the fact that the actual process of docking and "searing" is taught in the Veterinary College of which you are the head in Dublin?—I could not tell you from my own knowledge. Every teacher is responsible for his own teaching.

Did you use the hot iron yourself?—I am sorry to say I did. But now I know better. I was following the rule of thumb method then as a pupil, until I went into practice.

By Mr. Potterton: In days gone past was it not a common thing when legs were amputated?—Yes, in the days of Nelson, in the "cockpit" they used to stick the bleeding stump into a bucket of hot pitch; that has gone out of date.

Prof. Charles Duncan, Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, said he agreed with Prof. Mettam that the application of the hot iron was barbarous and unnecessary.

The Defence.

Mr. Louis Magee, M.R.C.V.S., Dunboyne, said the pony's tail was "docked" as well as any V.S. could do it. The searing was a well known practice, and by far the best method of obtaining the desired results—namely

to prevent hæmorrhage, and to hermetically seal the spot with aseptic scab—a perfectly healthy scab. The method which was employed in the case of the pony was the method which to his knowledge was recommended in the college in Dublin, of which Prof. Mettam was the head.

By Mr. Edwards: Was this a necessary operation in the case of this pony?—Yes, there was a kink in the pony's tail. It was a polo pony, and the object of taking it off was to prevent Capt. Baynes' polo stock from catching in this kink.

Cross-examined by Mr. Potterton: You approve of applying a red-hot iron?—I do, undoubtedly.

The Chairman said they had not got to decide whether the practice of docking was cruel or not. The only thing they had to consider was whether the operation was necessary, whether it was done in the best way possible. Mr. Magee gave the reasons why he considered the "docking" necessary. Not only did Mr. Magee see the pony, but he saw it the very day after the operation was performed, and he said the operation could not have been performed better. In the face of the evidence he would not like to convict Capt. Baynes of cruelty to animals. They, therefore, dismissed the case. He thought it was a very proper one for the Society to bring forward.—*Evening Telegraph* (Dublin).

The Virus of Foot and Mouth Disease.

As in many other cases, the etiology of foot and mouth disease has been to a great extent a bacteriological mystery, the classical methods of the past thirty years having apparently proved unsatisfactory. For some reason it has not attracted so much attention as many another disease of no greater importance; but even twenty-seven years ago Klein discovered a coccus which he isolated from the vesicles of diseased animals. He was able to cultivate this organism, and to cause infection with it. At this point, his investigations were allowed to drop. Eleven years later Schattelius and Kurth both obtained similar results with an organism which they considered to be a streptococcus. Here, again, the work was not carried to any greater length. More recently Siegel has undertaken what is probably the most extensive series of investigations on this disease. Starting in 1896, he made experiments along several lines, but was faced with failure at every turn. His experiments having on this account been interrupted and discontinued several times, he eventually came to the conclusion that previous assumptions with regard to the nature of the causal organisms would require alteration. Starting afresh, he was able to announce in 1906 the discovery of coccoid organisms which occurred in the vesicles as well as the blood of infected animals. These were also obtained from the blood of infected animals even before the appearance of the eruption. With some difficulty these organisms were cultivated first in liquid media and later, after sub-culture, on ordinary agar. The growth was slow and scanty, but, once established, there was little difficulty in making further sub-cultures. It was found, however, that the strains cultivated from severe acute cases died out somewhat rapidly, whereas those from chronic cases were much more resistant and, in addition, retained their virulence to a greater degree. With these strains, even when sub-cultured as many as sixty times, he was able to produce infection in healthy animals both by the mouth and by subcutaneous or intravenous injection. Although in some cases the results were equivocal, a sufficiently large number of animals so treated displayed the typical signs and symptoms of the disease to leave no doubt in the observer's mind that he had actually succeeded in isolating its real cause. These results were challenged by Ostertag, but without much justification. With regard to the nature of the organisms, Siegel refers to them occasionally as *diplococci*, but much more frequently as *Cytorhyctes*, and from this it may be assumed that he is inclined to regard them as protozoa, or rather as chlamydoza. If such be the case we may expect that some sort of life-history remains to be evolved. On this point, however, Siegel has no comment to make. The forms in culture are apparently absolutely identical with those met with in the blood. Nicolaus, who has confirmed Siegel's observations on the occurrence and culture of these organisms, makes special note of the fact that each coccus appears to be composed of a large number of much smaller bodies. B. M. J.

Johne's Disease—A New Means of Diagnosis.

A correspondent writes to *The Times*:—

Mr. F. W. Twort, M.R.C.S., and Mr. G. L. Ingram, M.R.C.V.S., of the Brown Institution, Wandsworth Road, have just obtained a diagnostic reagent which, it is claimed, will enable Johne's disease to be recognised in its earliest stages. The reagent so obtained, if injected subcutaneously into an animal suffering from the disease, will cause a rise in temperature of from 4½ to 5½ degrees Fahrenheit, but has no effect on a healthy animal.

Farmers and stockowners have been great losers by Johne's disease, which it has hitherto been impossible to recognise until it had so far advanced that the cattle affected were useless for breeding or milch purposes, and were of very little value to the butcher. When animals suffering from the disease are slaughtered the flesh is not condemned as unfit for human food unless the carcase shows marked emaciation, so that an early diagnosis will allow of a better price being obtained for the animal for butcher's purposes.

The money for the researches of Mr. Twort and Mr. Ingram at the Brown Institution was granted in part by the Royal Society and in part by the trustees of the Henry Dixon Fund (University of London).

The Development Fund Commissioners twice refused an application for a grant of £1000.

A Plea for Foreign Cattle Markets.

The following extract is from a paper by Mr. D. George Collins, presented at the York Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

"Speaking officially, as Chairman of the Committee controlling Deptford Foreign Cattle Market, there have been hundreds of cases of foot-and-mouth disease landed there during the last forty years. These have all been effectively dealt with, and there has never been any statement, official or otherwise, that the disease has been disseminated from this or any other foreign animals wharf. This is a striking testimony to the efficiency of the work of veterinary officers, and to the possibility and even the certainty of an absolute control of the disease when it is found in the animal itself. It may be taken as a happy augury for the possibility of the reopening of the trade of healthy animals, even if imported from countries where the disease may be suspected of existence. It is impossible to prevent the entrance of disease through channels of commerce by articles that, from their very nature and origin, cannot be examined and tested, but efficient inspection of the animals themselves before and after importation has been undeniably demonstrated. The stoppage of importation from "known or suspected" countries has had two deplorable results. Firstly, many distinct trades dealing with the by-products (one expert estimates them at as many as thirty) have been seriously prejudiced. Secondly, when it is remembered that the edible offal of one bullock affords cheap

food for no less than forty persons, and that of a sheep for eight persons, it can be seen how far-reaching is the effect of the existing Order. True, offal is imported, but it is not so satisfactory to inspect frozen offal boxed in bulk, when only sample boxes per shipload can be examined, while at a foreign animals wharf every organ can be carefully inspected at the time of slaughter, and lesions more easily detected. These facts exist. They call for an answer. By keeping out cattle are we closing one door that can be effectively guarded, and leaving wide open many other doors that can in no way be guarded?

Appointment of "Vets." to Public Boards and Royal Commissions.

To the Editor of North British Agriculturist.

Sir,—The above-mentioned subject has lately been brought into prominence by the recent outbreaks of "foot-and-mouth" amongst cattle in the British Isles; but, up to this time, it has not received the attention it deserves. The veterinary, and therefore the agricultural, aspect of public questions relating to the health of animals in this country has consequently suffered. Had veterinary and agricultural representation in Parliament been greater, we would have got more public recognition from the Imperial Exchequer than we have done in past years, and all our Veterinary and Agricultural Colleges would have been endowed by public grants and bequests. The public are now becoming aware of the close relationship which exists between the health of animals and the health of human beings. Therefore, there is the more necessity for a thoroughly representative number of practical agriculturists and veterinary surgeons on all our public boards, dealing directly and indirectly with the health of our stocks. A few good men have been appointed for this purpose, but, after all, it is the practical town and county officials who have to carry out the work, so I cannot see that the inclusion of a few practical agriculturists and veterinary surgeons would in any way detract from, but would rather increase the efficiency of, our public boards and Royal Commissions. So I venture to hope that where animal health is in question this policy will be carried out, both at the present time and in future appointments made by the Government of this country.—I am, etc.,

J. Donaldson Pottie, M.R.C.V.S.

Greenock, Aug. 20.

Committee on Veterinary Qualifications.

Mr. Walter Runciman, M.P., President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, has appointed a Departmental Committee to inquire into the requirements of the public services with regard to the employment of officers possessing veterinary qualifications and to consider whether any further measures can with advantage be adopted for the selection and training of students with a view to such employment.

The Committee will be constituted as follows:—Sir Alfred Hopkinson, K.C. (Chairman), Sir Thomas H. Elliott, K.C.B., Sir Thomas W. Holderness, K.C.S.I., Mr. H. J. Read, C.M.G., and Major G. F. MacMunn, D.S.O.

Mr. H. L. French, of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, will act as Secretary.—*The Times.*

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS 1894 TO 1911, SUMMARY OF RETURNS.

Period.	Anthrax. Outbreaks Confirm'd	Anthrax. Outbreaks Reported	Anthrax. Animals Confirm'd	Anthrax. Animals Reported	Foot-and-Mouth Disease. Outbreaks	Foot-and-Mouth Disease. Animals.	Glanders † (including Farcy) Outbreaks	Glanders † (including Farcy) Animals.	Parasitic Mange. Outbreaks	Parasitic Mange. Animals.	Sheep Scab. Outbreaks	Swine Fever. Outbreaks.	Swine Fever. Slaughtered. *
GT. BRITAIN. Week ended Aug. 31	12		13				3	4	14	51	3	30	522
Corresponding week in 1911	22		24				5	7			1	31	541
Corresponding week in 1910		20		21			3	13			4	29	146
Corresponding week in 1909		18		34			9	17			1	23	206
Total for 35 weeks, 1912	566		643		70	412	122	235	2348	5167	173	2218	28901
Corresponding period in 1911	584		731		8	425	182	312			307	1768	20798
Corresponding period in 1910		1000		1207	2	15	251	775			339	1000	8858
Corresponding period in 1909		905		1211			375	1360			471	1249	10995

† Counties affected, animals attacked: Hertford 1, London 1, Glamorgan 1, Lanark 1.

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, Sept. 3, 1912.

IRELAND. Week ended Aug. 31	...	...	3	20	...	...	Outbreaks ...	...	5	28
Corresponding Week in 1911 ...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	4
Corresponding Week in 1910 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
Corresponding Week in 1909 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	38
Total for 35 weeks, 1912. ...	3	3	24	236	...	...	51	263	177	1474
Corresponding period in 1911 ...	7	14	...	...	2	3	50	253	92	1579
Corresponding period in 1910 ...	5	8	...	...	1	2	54	349	71	1698
Corresponding period in 1909 ...	5	5	...	...	...	...	64	305	82	1505

† These figures include animals slaughtered and found affected on post-mortem examination.

Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, (Veterinary Branch), Dublin, Sept. 2, 1912

Note.—The figures for the Current Year are approximate only. * As Diseased or Exposed to Infection

Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

The Irish Department of Agriculture on 28th ulto., announced further outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease, one at Ballysax, Co. Kildare, and another at Conaveghy, Thompson's Bridge, Co. Fermanagh.

A further outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease was confirmed on Saturday, on a farm at Clonfane, near Thompson's Bridge, Co. Fermanagh. This farm is about a mile from Conaveghy, where the previous outbreak took place. Three cows were found affected, and arrangements for their slaughter were made.

We are officially informed that foot-and-mouth disease was reported on Sunday morning last at premises at Briers Brow, Wheelton, near Chorley, Lancashire, and at Hawley, near Camberley, Hampshire. The reports were confirmed later in the day by veterinary inspectors of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, and orders were at once made by the Board prohibiting the movement of animals over a wide area surrounding the infected farms.

A report was received by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries late in the evening of Tuesday, of the suspected existence of foot-and-mouth disease in a herd of 15 cattle at Greenfield, near Holywell, Flintshire. The report was confirmed on Wednesday, by one of the veterinary officers of the Board, 12 of the cattle being found affected.

Tuberculosis and the Soil.

Sir,—As an apparent reduction in the death rate from tuberculosis in Ireland is credited to recent propaganda work, and as this error might mislead many medical men to overestimate the value of like work, I would like to place some facts before your readers.

In the latter part of the seventeenth century a custom arose amongst the small Irish tenants and cottiers on small holdings of "burning the land." When going to convert one of the fields on the holding in pasture into a tillage field, the first work to be done by these toilers of the spade (who were the cowkeepers and breeders of cattle in Ireland) was, when they had the grass sod turned, to burn it, and with the ash to manure the crop to be planted. In this way any pastures infected by tuberculous cows were sterilised when put under crops. In parts of the country the custom continued down to 1860. But from the harm to the fertility of the soil this custom was said to cause, the landlords prosecuted every tenant who dared to "burn the land," and the custom, once extensive, was destroyed.

In those old days typhus fever was common, the majority of the people lived in one-roomed cabins, the population of Ireland was quadruple its present, yet the people were physically a strong virile race, and consumption was rare.

I shall describe a typical tenant farmer of my own district before and after the recent land change. He held seven acres of land; he had three acres under tillage and four under grass. He kept a cow, sometimes two. The cow was pastured all the year on the land except during snow or hard frost. From November 1st to April she was housed at night, and fed on hay or straw and roots; the cowhouse was within four yards of the door of the living house, and formed one side of the yard in which pigs and the working mare were housed. In the centre of the yard was the dung heap—the sewage cleansing of all the animals. This was put out every spring to manure the tillage land, or, perhaps to top-dress an acre of grass, to obtain a meadow. A tuberculous cow, by her excreta being used for manure and deposited on pastures, was bound to cause infection of the land.

From this man's infected pasture the calves bred on it carried tuberculosis when sold: the children who used the milk became infected. I maintain that the comparative freedom of Irish people in an age of insanitation and starvation and dirt was due to their burning the land, and thus unconsciously doing the greatest preventive work possible.

And I would say that all preventive work is but filing on the edge until we attack infected pastures, and I would suggest that all farmers should be made to keep a stock book, which should be produced at all fairs and auctions, so that cattle sold or bought should be entered in these books, so as to enable us to trace cattle transfers. So that if an animal was discovered it could be traced from any part of the British Isles to the pasture it was calved on. That would be real preventive work."

The foregoing is taken from a letter from a medical practitioner in Ireland, which appears in the columns of *The British Medical Journal*. In face of the progress made in controlling tuberculosis in animals, it is disappointing to find that knowledge on the subject is so limited. Those who were fortunate enough to be present at this year's meeting of the National Veterinary Association will remember it was there said that "in 1897, with the assistance of Mr. Holburn and Mr. Locke, before we had experience of this kind, in two years we entirely got rid of tuberculosis from a badly-infected farm where 80 per cent. of the cattle were diseased;" and Mr. Brittlebank's statement, "I am perfectly certain, from the work I have to do in keeping herds free from tuberculosis, that without tuberculin or a similar diagnostic you will not get rid of tuberculosis. I am perfectly certain of that."

The practice of "burning" the land referred to was in use in the Eastern Counties within living memory, not, I believe, applied to pasture, but following a white crop. There were men who went from farm to farm "burning," but the easily applied "artificials" killed the practice. There is a revival of late years, in the practice of sterilizing the soil by steam, in use among horticulturists.

A Testimonial to Modern Surgery.

"As a physician I venture to ask permission to say a few words on the subjects of operation in appendicitis, because my views are at least free from the suspicion of being influenced by any desire for operation. For some years I have seen a considerable number of cases both in hospital and private practice: in most cases I have seen the operation, examined the condition of the appendix, and known the result. In age they have ranged from 20 months to 84 years; the latter was the only one in which an operation was not performed. As a result I am an uncompromising advocate of immediate operation, whatever the stage of the disease. Surgical technique and anæsthetics being what they are to-day, I believe the risk of operation is far less than the risk of leaving a case whose exact condition at the moment it may be impossible to gauge, whose condition in twenty-four hours time it is even more impossible to forecast.'

[And yet the differences on the question of surgical *v.* medical treatment for appendicitis are very pronounced].

Agricultural Bookkeeping.

Extract from examination at agricultural college:—

Q. What entries would you make on account of natural increase in a flock?

A. I would credit the ewes and debit the rams.

Tuberculous Milk—Prosecution by the Sheffield Corporation.

The Sheffield Corporation have long been foremost in fighting consumption, and an important prosecution—the first of its kind—has been brought by the Health Committee. In the Sheffield Police Court last week, before Mr. W. Llewellyn and Dr. Pye-Smith, Norman Revitt, farmer, Hault Farm, Corker Bottom, and Fred Revitt, his son, were summoned for selling milk from a diseased cow.

Mr. Varley, on behalf of the Town Clerk, stated that the Sheffield Corporation Act, 1900, provided that a person selling for human consumption the milk of any cow which was suffering from tuberculosis of the udder, was liable to a penalty not exceeding £10. He remarked that Sheffield had taken the initiative in fighting the scourge of consumption, and as long ago as 1900 they got powers to check the transmission of the disease from the bovine species to the human body. It was common ground that milk was a fruitful source of infection. On June 6th Mr. Lewis, Corporation Veterinary Inspector, paid a visit to the defendant's farm and took samples of milk from his eleven cows. He suspected a certain red cow and took a sample of milk, which, when sent to the University, and bacteriologically examined, was found to be affected with tuberculosis. On July 2 the inspector took small quantities of milk from each of the whole herd, with the exception of the red cow. This milk was found to be free from disease. Mr. Revitt was told to isolate the red cow, and he promised to do do so.

On July 3 the inspector waited for Revitt's cart on its round. He met the cart in charge of the younger defendant, and took a sample of milk. If Revitt had followed instructions this milk should have been in the same condition as that taken on July 2, but, as a matter of fact, it was affected with tubercle, and he submitted that it was proved that Revitt had used milk from a cow which had been certified as being tuberculous. The cow was destroyed on July 3rd, and when samples were taken from the remainder of the herd on August 1st the milk was pure. Mr. Varley said that the prosecution was the first under the section. It was such a serious case, and Revitt had set the authorities at naught, that the Health Committee were obliged to ask for the infliction of the full penalty.

Evidence was given in support of Mr. Varley's statement

Mr. A. B. Chambers (defending) said that Mr. Varley had assumed that the milk sold on the 3rd. of July must have come from the diseased red cow, but he would disprove this. On July 3rd a drover came to the farm at about nine o'clock to take the red cow to the slaughter-house. Just before the cow was driven away it was milked, but the milk was not sent in the churns, as the younger defendant had started off an hour before. Mr. Chambers suggested that one of the other cows might have developed tuberculosis between July 1st and 3rd. *A few days later Revitt noticed that one of the cows was not well, and it was sold at Rotheram,*

Both defendants gave evidence denying that the milk from the diseased cow had been used after the visit of the inspector on July 2nd.

A drover named Booth, stated that as he was going to Revitt's farm on July 3rd for the purpose of taking the diseased cow to be killed, he met the younger defendant with the cart, and when he got to the farm the cow was milked.

The Chairman said they considered the case a very important one. They had decided to convict the elder defendant, who was responsible for allowing the milk to be sold. They were inclined to inflict the full penalty, but as the defendant had the cow killed on the third day he would be fined £5, inclusive of costs.—*Meat Trades' Journal.*

[We conclude that the italics are by the Editor M. T. J.]

Newcastle Cattle Market.

Mr. T. Parker, Veterinary Inspector, in a report to the Estates and Markets Committee, points out the decline in the number of animals exposed for sale in recent years.

Year.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Swine.
1901	101,445	7,210	374,987	42,065
1909	85,110	6,950	323,780	31,189
1910	77,347	6,469	306,703	27,089
1911	70,337	5,841	305,418	37,754

The Newcastle Cattle Market for many years enjoyed the proud position of being the second largest market in the Kingdom, but unless some remedy be forthcoming it may be safely predicted that in the near future it will have to rank as a small sale yard.

On the other hand is the enormous increase in the importation of foreign meat into Britain.

	Beef.		Mutton.
1905	5,037,521 cwt.		3,811,000 cwt.
1911	7,362,434 „		5,337,451 „
1874	23,539 „	1884	300,000 „

Mr. Parker puts the imported beef in 1911 as equivalent to over one million cattle, and the imported mutton to eleven million live sheep.

According to the Report of the Departmental Committee, dated 1909—appointed to inquire into the combinations in the meat trade—it was estimated that the meat supply of the United Kingdom for the year 1908—was, of all meat, 25,313,020 cwt. of home killed and 21,537,360 cwts. of foreign meat, or a total of 46,850,380 cwt.

About the year 1870 there were estimated to be some 5,813,123 cattle in the United Kingdom. Since the year 1870 the numbers have increased considerably, and is estimated at 7,037,327 head of cattle during the year 1911.

"Recognising that there are more bovines in this country at the present time than ever before, it may be asked, Why should our market, in so far as cattle are concerned, be rapidly cut down? Last year there were ten thousand more swine than in the previous year sold or exhibited for sale in our market. Sheep were fewer in numbers than the year before, although they have not shown a decrease to anything like the same extent as cattle. According to the Departmental Committee's report, foreign pig meat forms 56·9 per cent. of our total pig meat supplies; foreign mutton and lamb forms 44·1 per cent. of our total mutton and lamb supplies, whilst beef from abroad forms only 39·2 per cent. of our total beef supplies, notwithstanding the fact that bacon and pork (swine) the very commodity which has the largest competition through supplies from abroad—shows in our weekly market a huge increase, whereas cattle, which has the smallest competition from abroad—shows the greatest downfall in respect of numbers exhibited.

"To the point—Why do auction marts in our district sell more cattle to-day than ever they did before?

"At one time butchers were not particular whether or not they had any meat in their shops before a Wednesday morning in each week. To-day, matters are greatly changed. There are more shops and more people to cater for, and consequently there is more meat sold—both home and foreign. To compete with the latter, butchers prefer to have fresh meat in their shops on a Tuesday morning. In order to do that it necessary to purchase their cattle either the week previous or a day earlier in the week, and the latter can only be accomplished—in this district—in the Auction Marts. In

recent years the local and surrounding auction marts have been steadily increasing in their weekly sales, so much so that in the case of one of the surrounding marts the weekly sales have increased to the extent of about four times as great during the past 10 years.

"A few of the marts are held on the Saturdays, but the great majority are held the day immediately preceding our own market, the nett result being that we are always just 24 hours behind in the competition from the beginning to the end of each year. Times have changed and we must move with the times if we are unable to lead. If only we will speed up to the extent of 24 hours each week we ought to fill our market with cattle direct from the feeders instead of having to rely on the dregs of the surrounding auction marts, which have already changed hands, and have therefore been made too dear for the butcher.

Personal.

Mr. JOHN QUINLAN, M.R.C.V.S., of Mocklerstown, Clonmell, Co. Tipperary, who recently graduated with honours, from the Royal Veterinary College of Ireland, has been offered by the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa, the post of Lecturer in Veterinary Science at the Potchefstroom Agricultural College, Transvaal.

The Secretary of State has appointed Major D. M. Storrar, A.V.C. (T), F.R.C.V.S., to be Veterinary Expert for South Wales and Monmouthshire under the Coal Mines Act, 1911.

ARMY VETERINARY SERVICE.

Extract from *London Gazette*.

WAR OFFICE, WHITEHALL, Aug. 30.

DECORATIONS.

The King has been graciously pleased to confer the Territorial Decoration upon the under-mentioned Officers of the Territorial Force who have been duly recommended for the same under the terms of the Royal Warrant dated Aug. 17, 1908:—

* * * *

TERRITORIAL FORCE. ARMY VETERINARY CORPS.

Maj. E. D. Johnson.

OBITUARY

JOHN HARVEY SPREULL, M.R.C.V.S., Dundee.
Graduated, Lond: July, 1909.

Mr. Spreull died on Aug. 20th from pulmonary Tuberculosis. Aged 26 years.

JOHN ANDERSON, M.R.C.V.S.
Edin: April, 1872.

Death resulted from paraplegia, on August 19th, at Fitaboutie, Coull, Aberdeen, at the age of 68 years.

E. W. THORBURN, M.R.C.V.S., Blackpool.
Lond: Dec: 1892.

Death occurred on August 16th, from general paralysis (about three years). Aged 50 years.

JOHN ELLIS, M.R.C.V.S., Liverpool.
Lond: May, 1857.

Mr. Ellis died at Seabank Avenue, Egremont, on Monday, 2nd inst., at the age of 74. Interment was at Hall, on Thursday.

THE STANDING OPERATION.

Sir,

The "standing operation" is again brought to our notice. As one who has adopted this method I should like to reply to Mr. Blackwell's conclusions.

Clause II. Swelling and Stiffness. Obviously the stiffness is brought about by swelling, and swelling by discharges from the vessels and surrounding wounded tissue. From Mr. Blackwell's method it is only natural that quite a lot of bleeding will take place. I found great disadvantages to the aforementioned method and have adopted the following with excellent results.

First day. Open scrotum, withdraw testicle, and clamp cord and vessels with dressed clamps.

Second day. Incise cord, etc., just below clamp; dress cord also wound in scrotum with any ordinary antiseptic ointment, and taking the lips of the wound with each index finger, gently widen, at the same time pulling carefully downwards, when the cord will return. No blood or swelling appears. Wounds heal in a very short time.

Clause III. With regard to the comparative safety of the colt, there is doubt. Sensitive and highly spirited animals are apt to do a deal of harm, *e.g.*, causing hernia with struggling, when hobbled. I have seen this on several occasions amongst racehorses.

Clause VI. In this case I can't see that it is any more dangerous to perform the operation than to put on hobbles.

Clause VII. The humaneness. In the recumbent position the animals, in the majority of methods are clamped. Now I can't think *that after the clamp is once securely fixed about the cord* that it makes the slightest pain, no matter how long it is kept on, as the part at once becomes numbed.

The other clauses Mr. Blackwell agrees to the method, and the first part of clause 3, with regard to the extra visit, is the only drawback. Nevertheless, should the Anæsthetics Bill pass we should be again obliged to hobble.—Yours faithfully,

FRANK CHRISTOPHER, CLASS C.

Lancaster, Aug. 3.

THE ANÆSTHETICS BILL.

Dear Sir,

On reading Mr. Townsend's letter to *The Veterinary Record* this week, I should like to suggest that he has rather hastily put his letter together—for the following reason,—he says, "In the case of the medical profession is not the use of anæsthetics for operations left entirely at the discretion of the medical practitioners?" I think that he loses sight of the fact that it is chiefly the patient who has the say in the use of anæsthetics, and who so often asks, "will it be painful?" I should like to even go further and say that no man would allow himself to be operated on without the use of an anæsthetic, whether local or general, and also that no medical practitioner would ever think of suggesting a painful operation without an anæsthetic except in those cases where they are compelled to on account of heart trouble. I am sorry to say with our patients they have no choice and are entirely left at the discretion of the operator, who too often thinks more of the expense and trouble than of the pain he is going to inflict.

Mr. Towsend also says that in some of the operations mentioned under the Act, anæsthetics are not always necessary. Does he mean to say that those are not painful operations? I think it is the duty of every practitoner to try and alleviate as much suffering as possible and not to do operations which can be done painlessly with an anæsthetic, without one, and until they will do so, I certainly must agree with others—that men outside the profession are quite right, and to be commended for making veterinary surgeons perform painful operations with anæsthetics, and so show the ones who assist that veterinary surgeons are not men who have no feeling for the dumb creation. I quite fail to see how Mr. Townsend associates the move with the sentiments of anti-vivisectionists, when vivisectors where possible, use anæsthetics.

C. E. W. BRIAN.